

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claim 6 is canceled, and claims 17-25 are added. Support for amendment to claim 1 can be found at least at page 17, lines 10-14. Thus, no new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 4, 5, 8-11 and 14-16 contain allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6, 7, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,428 to Yamamoto et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yamamoto does not disclose an image forming device that includes "the polygon mirror, the lens, and a corresponding portion of the photosensitive member that is irradiated by the laser beam are arranged on the same plane, the laser beam that has passed through the lens being directly irradiated onto the corresponding portion of the photosensitive member," as recited in amended claim 1.

Instead, Yamamoto employs a folding mirror 31 to reflect a laser beam. See e.g., Yamamoto, Figs. 6 and 7. In other words, the polygon mirror 28, the lens 30, and a portion of a corresponding photosensitive member 1(a) that is irradiated by the laser beam are not arranged on a same plane. Thus, the image forming system of Yamamoto is different from the claimed image forming device.

Further, because Yamamoto does not disclose the claimed image forming device as recited in amended claim 1, the image forming device of Yamamoto cannot be made compact as the claimed image forming device as the claimed exposing device can be designed in a slim shape. Moreover, the claimed image forming device does not require a reflecting or

folding mirror, and thus, manufacturing costs can be reduced. Withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 4 and the base claim, original claim 1. As acknowledged by the Office Action, claim 18 is thus, in allowable condition.

Claim 20 includes allowable subject matter of claim 8 and the base claim, original claim 1. As acknowledged by the Office Action, claim 20 is thus, in allowable condition.

Claim 24 includes allowable subject matter of all intervening claims, 12-14 and base claim, claim 1. As acknowledged by the Office Action, claim 24 is thus, in allowable condition.

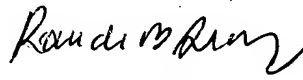
For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 18, 20 and 24, and the claims depending therefrom, are in allowable condition.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

Date: January 24, 2005

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